

valiant efforts that they are, but on Iraq, not a question out of the Congress, not a change of course out of the President. They have rubber-stamped that policy.

Take the issue of Katrina. We all saw the tape last week of the President of the United States on that issue. Not a single question. We have had an American city literally wiped out, and what is the response? Billions of dollars are gone. Who is checking the books? Not this Congress. Just keep going, writing hot checks over there, and, again, companies are walking away with money, no services. We have trailers that are unoccupied. Nobody wants to ask the questions. See no evil, hear no evil Congress, rubber-stamp the policies. People are still dispersed, and nobody's back where they want to live, and we have trailers we bought with nobody living in them, but nobody wants to ask the question. See no evil, hear no evil, just rubber-stamp the policy.

What happened in Katrina? We now know for a fact that the government was notified beforehand that this was going to be the big one, and the head of the Homeland Security Department, he is still there and not being held accountable for what happened, and denied, when they said nobody knew this was going to happen, we now know 48 hours, not because they wanted us to know, but 48 hours beforehand they were notified that this was going to be the big one, that people in the Dome were going to be hurt, that they did not have the ability to evacuate everybody. Yet, the government fell down on its responsibility.

When you look at what has happened now in New Orleans and you are reminded of the fact that when George Bush ran for President in 2000, he said he was opposed to nation building, and you look at New Orleans today, who knew it was America he was talking about? Our schools, our health care system, the economy, the ability to be able to get back on their feet and get their lives moving again, this Congress, not a question, see no evil, hear no evil, rubber-stamp the policies. There we are again. The American people have been let down by their elected officials and this Republican Congress, this President.

Take the economy. We now have for the last 4 years added \$3 trillion to the Nation's debt, \$3 trillion. Every year for the last 4 years, they have come and asked for another raise in the debt ceiling of close to \$800 billion. By this time, end of a couple of months, we will be close to \$9 trillion in debt accrued in the last 4 years by this administration. Yet median incomes are down for the average family. Health care costs are up 58 percent. Education costs are at 38 percent. What does this Congress do? Stay the course, do not change the course, same old policies that got us right to where we are, an endless occupation and a jobless economy.

HONORING LAVERNE DUNLAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, in light of Women's History Month, today I rise in honor of Laverne Dunlap. Laverne Dunlap retired earlier this month after 35 years of service with the Michigan City, Indiana, Police Department. Her story is much more than just a story about a public servant. It is a story about a pioneer.

The story actually begins in Greenwood, Mississippi, where Laverne was born. At the age of 5, she moved to Kingston Heights, Indiana, with her family. In 1963, she moved to Michigan City, but she never forgot where she came from, and at the age of 21, she traveled back to Greenwood, Mississippi, with a traveling band to perform in her hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the true test of greatness is not how someone responds to success, but how they respond to adversity. The choices we make when we are in the midst of trials and tribulations are the true reflection of our character. Well, Mr. Speaker, one night in Greenwood, Mississippi, Laverne Dunlap's character was tested, and like many before her and many after her, she turned her trials into her triumph.

While swimming in a pool in the hotel where she was staying, Laverne and her sister were roughed up and arrested by police. Their crime, swimming in a pool only meant for white people. This was the moment when Laverne Dunlap knew her destiny was to become a police officer, not to exact revenge, but to make sure that those wearing the uniform of trust could truly be trusted.

In 1971, she joined the Michigan City Police Department with one other woman named Sue Bitter. They were the first women on the Michigan City Police Force, and throughout her 35 years, she worked in vice, juvenile crimes, uniform division, undercover, and she even spent some time driving the scuba team's boat.

She has earned the respect and admiration of her peers, her family, her community and certainly her Congressman. I congratulate her on her retirement and wish her the best of luck as she plans to spend time in her retirement with her 96-year-old mother.

Thank you, Laverne. You are a public servant and an inspiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT GARRISON AVERY

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant Garrison Avery died Wednesday, February 1, from injuries he sustained while serving in Iraq. The personnel carrier in which he was traveling hit a roadside bomb, killing him and two fellow soldiers. He was 23 years old. He leaves behind his wife Kayla, his bride of just 8 months.

Garrison was the son of Gary and Susan Avery of Lincoln, Nebraska. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 2000 and from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, in 2004. He then signed up for Army Ranger training, and with his strong intellect and fierce dedication, Garrison Avery became a decorated member of the United States Army. He served in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

In his service and in his life, Garrison exemplified the solemn virtues of the great American soldier: The drive and purpose that compelled him at 17 years old to earn his parents' permission to join the Army; the seriousness and excellence that propelled his decorated graduation from West Point; the humility and dignity that kept him from speaking of his numerous special honors awarded for excellent service; the compassion and justice that drove him beyond the call of duty to help Iraqi children, orphaned by the war; the strength, honor and courage he displayed as an officer, leading his troops in the midst of battle; and the faith, love and respect he gave to God, to his family and to his country.

We are also indebted to Garrison's beautiful family. Their love, their nurturing, and their support formed him, guided him and steadied him. His memory will live on through his family and friends, but also in the hearts of the community he bravely protected.